

Start Here

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HA-1443

AND

HA-1444

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1443 (#411)
1314434711
HA-1444 (#414)
1314443711

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

McComas Bros. Lumber & Building Supplies

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

411-414 N. Main Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒

___OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒YES, RESTRICTED

___YES, UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

☒COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. William McComas

Telephone #: 838-4072

STREET & NUMBER

538 Rock Spring

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 365

Folio #: 571

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

100-1173
100-1464

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bel Air Auto Parts. This two story building with four octagonal portholes in the second story of its facade is at 411 N. Main Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The three bay by four bay building has aluminum siding simulating board and batten on the front and shiplap on the other three sides. Its broad gable roof is masked in front by a false front topped by a broad classical molded cornice. Another cornice strip is below that. The portholes have been added since 1965, as has the small shingle pent roof over the two shop windows and the double glass and aluminum doors. Other windows are 6/6. An outside stove chimney rises in the middle of the rear (east) elevation.

Pioneer Cleaners. This building is just north of the one described above. It is also 2 storied with a steeper sloped gable roof with a stepped false front sided in aluminum. Three diamond-shaped windows decorate the facade above the 12 pane show windows and the recessed doorway. The rear bay of this building is slightly taller than the rest of the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

117-1443
117-1444

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These two buildings between Ellendale and where the railroad station used to be are typical of early 20th century detached commercial structures. They are what remains of the structures of the McComas Brothers Lumber and Building Supplies Company, founded in 1907 by Emory and M. Stanley McComas. The site is that of Edward Ferry and Benjamin Minnick's Lumber Yard, built in 1886. Minnick sold out soon later, and Edward Ferry ran the lumber and coal yard until he sold it in 1897 to Frank Keen and David Hanway who operated under the name of Hanway & Keen.

The 1904 Sanborn Map shows a small two story office north of Ellendale. North of that, south of the railroad tracks were a long, narrow warehouse, and behind that, the coal yards. Across Main Street were other lumber sheds and a two story building for "hay, grain & agricultural import's".

Ferry leased the land in 1886. In 1889 he transferred it to his mother, Mrs. Barbara Dunnigan. At the turn of the century when their financial woes came to a head in a rash of lawsuits, it was sold. In 1906 it was owned by canner Joseph Deckman. That year he sold it to the McComas Brothers for \$4,025 (117/304). They acquired the property across the street in 1912.

In 1907 they built the present buildings. The 1930 Map shows both new buildings and four lumber sheds (no longer there) along Ellendale. Emory and M. Stanley McComas both died suddenly in 1937, and Alexander and William McComas, sons of Stanley, took over the family business. Alex died in 1950. William carried on until February, 1965, when the business closed its doors. The property is still owned by William's widow. The north building is occupied by Pioneer Cleaners. The south building houses the Bel Air Auto Parts.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1904, 1930 Sanborn Map
The Aegis, February 25, 1965

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #271 in the Town of Bel Air, 300' on Ellendale.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

3 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

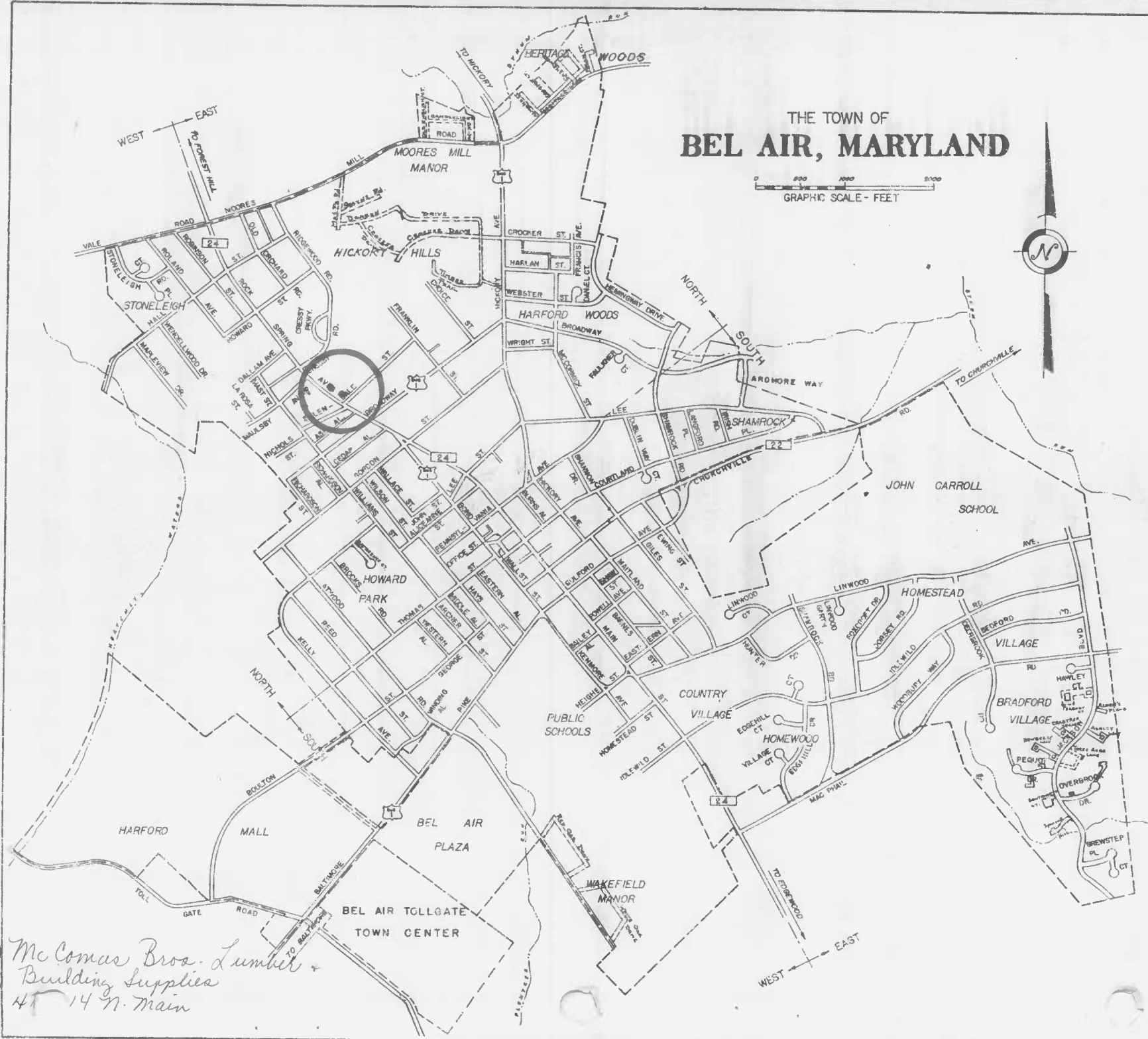
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

0 500 1000
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1443(41) McComas Bros. Lumber
HA-1444(41) Building Supplies
41 14 N. Main



14 A-1443

The Comae Bros Lumber #1, 471 N. Mason Berlin
N. W. elev
M. L. Lewis, 1979





HA-1443

The Comae Bros Lumber, 411 N. Main, Belton
S + e elev

M. Larew, 1979

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